

A NEW SPECIES OF MELAMPODIUM (ASTERACEAE-HELIANTHEAE)  
FROM OAXACA, MEXICO

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Exploration of Cerro Espina, a site near Pachutla, Oaxaca, well-known for its concentration of endemic taxa, has revealed the following novelty in Melampodium. It is related to the delicate annual, M. tepicense, but amply distinct.

MELAMPODIUM NORTHINGTONII B. L. Turner, sp. nov., Fig. 2.

M. tepicense B. L. Rob. simile sed foliis glabris, pedunculis 10-23 mm longis, et flosculis disci numerosioribus (10-14) differet.

Annual herb to 30 cm high. Stems erect, 1.0-1.5 mm diameter, puberulent to nearly glabrate. Leaves mostly 20-35 mm long, 10-20 mm wide; petioles 5-8 mm long; blades rhombic-ovate, broadly obtuse at the base, acute to obtuse at the apices, the upper surfaces sparsely strigose, the lower surfaces glabrous or nearly so, the margins obscurely crenate. Heads 2-3 mm high on peduncles 8-28 mm long. Involucre cupulate, 3.5-5.0 mm across; outer bracts 5, elliptical, somewhat connate at base, ca 2.5 mm long, 1.0-1.5 mm wide, rounded or obtuse at the apex. Fruits (body) ca 2 mm high, ca 1.5 mm across, the lateral surfaces with a vertical or oblique tuberculate ridge across an alveolate face; apices mostly without appendages (however, a few abaxial, flattened, appendages up to 2.5 mm long occur on a few fruits). Ray florets 5; corollas yellow, the ligules 1.5-2.0 mm long, 0.5-1.0 mm wide. Disc florets 10-12. Palea obovate, ca 1.5 mm long, 0.5 mm wide.

TYPE: MEXICO. OAXACA: southern lower slopes of Cerro Espina, ca 9 mi N of Pachutla. 23 Aug 1980, B. L. Turner 80A-26. (holotype TEX; isotype MEXU).

The species obviously belongs to the section Serratura of Melampodium and will key to M. tepicense B. L. Rob. in Stuessy's (1972) treatment of the genus. The latter species occurs along the Pacific Coast from Nayarit to Michoacan (Fig. 1). Melampodium northingtonii can be distinguished from M. tepicense by its much longer peduncles, nearly glabrous leaves and more numerous disc florets. It is also close to M. dicoelocarpum B. L. Rob. but the latter has longer, more acuminate, leaves, longer peduncles, larger heads, longer rays and fruits with different sculpturing, etc.

Melampodium northingtonii might, with some validity, be treated as a variety of either M. tepicense or M. dicoelocarpum but it appears as distinct from both of these as does M. sinaloense Stuessy. Indeed, it appears somewhat intermediate between these several taxa but, overall,

closer to M. tepicense.

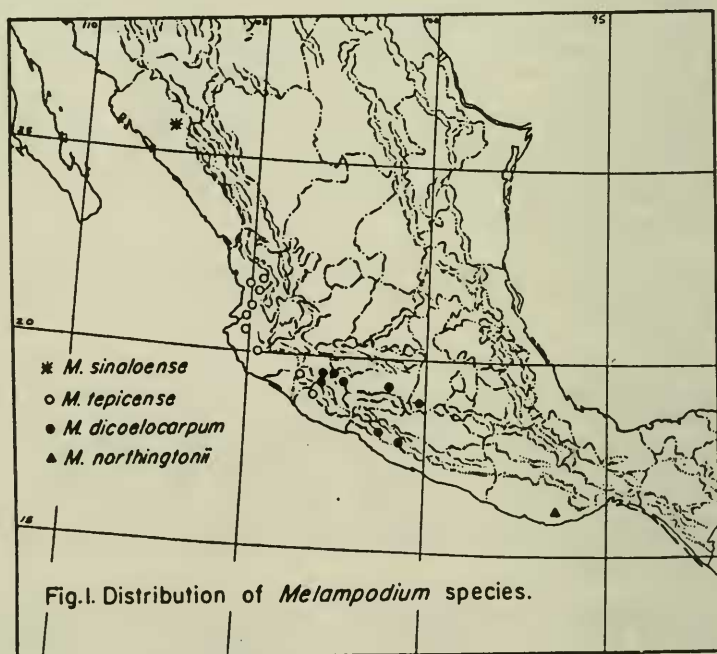
It is a pleasure to name this species for Dr. David Northington, currently Director of the National Wildflower Center, Austin, Texas, who worked on the composite genus Pyrrhopappus for his doctoral thesis at the University of Texas, Austin. He also participated in the field work that led to the discovery of the present novelty.

### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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### LITERATURE CITED

Stuessy, T. F. 1972. Revision of the genus Melampodium (Compositae: Heliantheae). *Rhodora* 74: 1-70; 161-219.



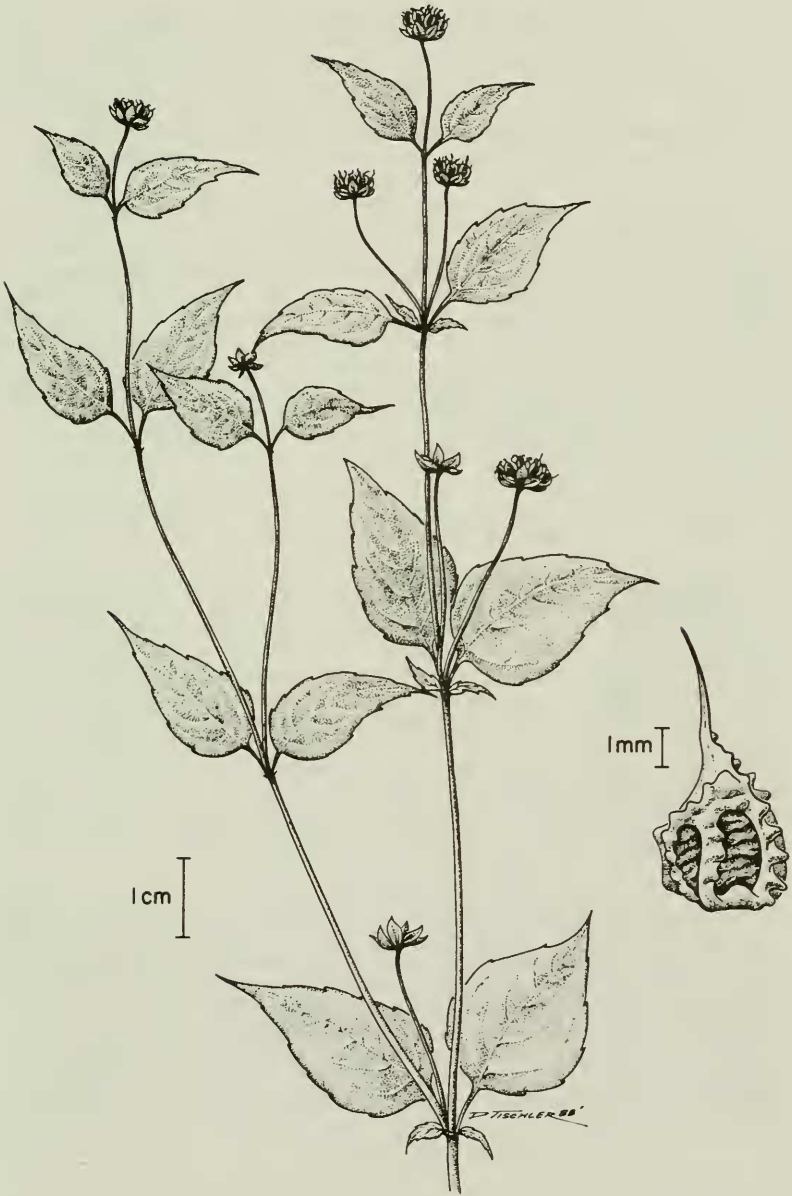


Fig. 2. *Melampodium northingtonii* (from holotype)